

HOUSE BILL NO. 2021

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Roem)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-79 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school boards; back to school night events and parent-teacher conferences; free or reduced price meals applications.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-79 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-79. Powers and duties.

~~A-Each~~ school board shall:

- 1. See that the school laws are properly explained, enforced, and observed;
- 2. Secure, by visitation or otherwise, as full information as possible about the conduct of the public schools in the school division and take care that they are conducted according to law and with the utmost efficiency;
- 3. Care for, manage, and control the property of the school division and provide for the erecting, furnishing, equipping, and noninstructional operating of necessary school buildings and appurtenances and the maintenance thereof by purchase, lease, or other contracts;
- 4. Provide for the consolidation of schools or redistricting of school boundaries or adopt pupil assignment plans whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division;
- 5. Insofar as not inconsistent with state statutes and regulations of the Board of Education, operate and maintain the public schools in the school division and determine the length of the school term, the studies to be pursued, the methods of teaching, and the government to be employed in the schools;
- 6. In instances in which no grievance procedure has been adopted prior to January 1, 1991, establish and administer by July 1, 1992, a grievance procedure for all school board employees, except the division superintendent and those employees covered under the provisions of Article 2 (§ 22.1-293 et

27 seq.) and Article 3 (§ 22.1-306 et seq.) of Chapter 15 of this title, who have completed such probationary
28 period as may be required by the school board, not to exceed 18 months. The grievance procedure shall
29 afford a timely and fair method of the resolution of disputes arising between the school board and such
30 employees regarding dismissal or other disciplinary actions, excluding suspensions, and shall be
31 consistent with the provisions of the ~~Board of Education's~~ Board's procedures for adjusting grievances.
32 Except in the case of dismissal, suspension, or other disciplinary action, the grievance procedure
33 prescribed by the ~~Board of Education~~ pursuant to § 22.1-308 shall apply to all full-time employees of a
34 school board, except supervisory employees;

35 7. Perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the ~~Board of Education~~ or as are imposed
36 by law;

37 8. Obtain public comment through a public hearing not less than 10 days after reasonable notice
38 to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in the school division prior to providing (i) for the
39 consolidation of schools; (ii) the transfer from the public school system of the administration of all
40 instructional services for any public school classroom or all noninstructional services in the school
41 division pursuant to a contract with any private entity or organization; or (iii) in school divisions having
42 15,000 pupils or more in average daily membership, for redistricting of school boundaries or adopting any
43 pupil assignment plan affecting the assignment of 15 percent or more of the pupils in average daily
44 membership in the affected school. Such public hearing may be held at the same time and place as the
45 meeting of the school board at which the proposed action is taken if the public hearing is held before the
46 action is taken. If a public hearing has been held prior to the effective date of this provision on a proposed
47 consolidation, redistricting, or pupil assignment plan ~~which that~~ that is to be implemented after the effective
48 date of this provision, an additional public hearing shall not be required;

49 9. (Expires July 1, 2025) At least annually, survey the school division to identify critical shortages
50 of (i) teachers and administrative personnel by subject matter and (ii) school bus drivers and report such
51 critical shortages to the ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction~~ and to the Virginia Retirement System;
52 however, the school board may request the division superintendent to conduct such survey and submit
53 such report to the school board, the Superintendent, and the Virginia Retirement System; ~~and~~

54 10. Ensure that the public schools within the school division are registered with the Department of
55 State Police to receive from the State Police electronic notice of the registration, reregistration, or
56 verification of registration information of any person required to register with the Sex Offender and
57 Crimes Against Minors Registry pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1 within that school
58 division pursuant to § 9.1-914; and

59 11. Ensure that at any back to school night event in the local school division to which the parents
60 of enrolled students are invited, any such parent in attendance receives prominent notification of and
61 access, in paper or electronic form, or both, to information about application and eligibility for free or
62 reduced price meals for students and a fillable free or reduced price meals application that may be
63 completed and submitted on site. Each school board is encouraged to provide to each parent who attends
64 a parent-teacher conference in the local school division prominent notification of and access, in paper or
65 electronic form, or both, to information about application and eligibility for free or reduced price meals
66 for students and a fillable free or reduced price meals application that may be completed and submitted
67 on site during or after such conference.

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